3. Freedom to time charter out Indian ships to foreign shipping companies.

4. Acquisition of vessels through bare boat chartcr-cum-demise method.

5. Quarterly Block Allocation Scheme for repair of ships has been dispensed with entirely and Reserve Bank of India releases foreign exchange for ship repair/dry docking and spares for imported capital goods without any value limit.

6. Freight charges on account of movement of fertilizer and petroleum products are now allowed to be paid in convertible currency on par with other commodities.

Upgradatioin of Cochin Shipyard

*131. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cochin Shipyard has taken up only ship repair because non-remunerative prices were offered for ship building;

(b) whether railway wagon building or similar works on a regular basis are under consideration for optimum utilisation of Shipyard capacity; and

(c) if so, what steps arc being taken to upgrade the technique and technology of the Yard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Due to lack of orders and non-remuncrative prices, of ships resulting in sizeable cost price gap, the Cochin Shipyard Limited has stepced up the ship repair activities so as to utilize its available capacity and manpower.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Docs not arise.

Renewal of free railway passes to freedom fighters

*132. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI N.E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the renewal of freedom fighters' free railway passes has been suspended in Vijayawada and in all other divisions of South Central Railway for the last few weeks; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to make the passes available in these divisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Violation of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

*133. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position in regard to violation of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by over 38 large and medium industrial units in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to issue prosecution notices to these units by January 31, 1993; and

(c) if so, whether the notices have since been issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the information provided by the Central Pollution Control Board, there are 25 defaulting units, which have not taken the required steps to instal pollution control devices within the given time to the satisfaction of the State Pollution Control Boards.

(b) and (c) The State Governments have been directed to take legal action against all the defaulting units in January, 1993 and they have initiated action accordingly.

Spread of AIDS in the Country

*134. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'A million AIDS cases estimated in India-infection spreading' appeared in the Economic Times dated 14th January, 1992;

(b) what is the reaction of Government to this fast increasing disease;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to introduce compulsory testing for AIDS; and

(d) the reasons for inertia on the part of Government in combating AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANANAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has already taken up a comprehensive programme all over the country to prevent the spread of HIV infection in the country with assistance from the World Bank and the World Health Organisation.

(c) No, Sir. Government is not in favour of compulsory testing.

(d) Does not arises.

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों के लिये विदेशों से सहायता

*135. **श्री महेन्द्र सिंह साठर:** क्या खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार कश्मीर, पंजाब, हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों को स्थापित करने और इन राज्यों के प्रसंस्कृत फल-उत्पादों के निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने हेतु विदेशों से सहायता ले रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो 1 जुलाई, 1991 से अब तक इस दिशा में की गयी कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इन क्षेत्रों से ऐसे उत्पादों के निर्यात और उससे प्राप्त राजस्व तथा विदेशी मुद्रा का वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान स्थापित करने हेतु राज्य-वार कितनी परियोजनाएँ लम्बित हैं और उन्हें कब तक स्थापित कर दिये जाने की संभावना है?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री तरूण गोगोई): (क) और (ख) जैतून का तेल निकालने की एक भारत-इटली एकीकृत परियोजना को हिमाचल प्रदेश और जम्मू-कश्मीर राज्यों में इस समय इटली की सहायता से चलाया जा रहा है। इसके अलावा पंजाब, हरियाणा और हिमाचल प्रदेश में कुछ खाद्य प्रसंस्करण यूनिटों में विदेशी/अनिवासी भारतीय एक्विटी पूंजीनिवेश के प्रस्तावों को सरकार ने मंजूरी दी है जिससे इन उत्पादों के निर्यात को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके।

(ग) पिछले चार वर्षों में देश से किया गया प्रसंस्कृत फल उत्पादों का निर्यात और अर्जित विदेशी मुद्रा इस प्रकार है:—

करोड़ रुपये

1988-89	64.01
1989-90	77.21
1990-91	103.07
1991-92	120.00

(घ) इन राज्यों में ऐसे यूनिटों की स्थापना के कोई प्रस्ताव इस मंत्रालय में लम्बित नहीं हैं।

अफगानिस्तान से स्वदेश वापस आने वाले भारतीय

*136. **श्री सोम पाल:**
श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह:

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) अफगानिस्तान से अब तक कितने भारतीय स्वदेश वापस आ गये हैं और उन भारतीयों की संख्या कितनी है जो स्वदेश वापस आने के इच्छुक हैं किन्तु अब तक वापस नहीं आ सके हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि पाकिस्तान की ओर से पूर्ण सहयोग न मिल पाने के कारण भारतीयों को स्वदेश वापस आने में भारी कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ रहा है;